

July 13, 2001

RETURNING DONATED VANS TO DONORS

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive updates guidance for returning donated vans to donors.

2. BACKGROUND: For many years the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been the beneficiary of the contribution of vans to meet the special needs of veteran patients. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) established a Transportation Network to benefit veteran patients who do not have necessary transportation from their homes to VA medical centers. DAV has donated hundreds of vans to support this activity. Many of the vans now exceed the mileage recommended by General Services Administration (GSA) for replacement. DAV has a plan to replace vans not meeting GSA standards as their resources permit. They recognize the possibility of benefiting their local chapters if the vans could be returned to DAV for disposal when they exceed GSA Safety Standards.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy to continue returning donated vans to their donors when they no longer meet GSA Safety Standards. **NOTE:** *In response to DAV's request, the General Counsel reviewed Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 8304, and determined that if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs deems it advantageous, the donated vans may be returned to the donors for such terms as appropriate.*

4. ACTION: Medical center Directors are encouraged to make necessary arrangements to return donated vans to the donor organizations when the GSA Safety Standards are exceeded or the condition of the van is determined to be unacceptable.

5. REFERENCES: Title 38 U.S.C. 8304.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Director, Voluntary Service Office (10C2), is responsible for the contents of this VHA Directive. Questions may be addressed to 202-273-8952.

7. RESCISSIONS: VHA Directive 10-95-110 is rescinded. This VHA Directive will expire July 31, 2006.

S/ Tom Sanders for
Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

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THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES JULY 31, 2006